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CIA LIBRARY RESOURCES PROGRAM

In 1951 the CIA Library established a Resources Section with a two-part assignment of 1) collecting and publishing information concerning intelligence source materials located within the intelligence community, in other departments of the government and in private organizations, and 2) preparing guides describing and evaluating, title by title, the classified or unclassified handbooks, indexes, gazetteers, dictionaries and related reference publications pertinent to intelligence research.

It had long been apparent that the diversity of intelligence activities and the security barriers surrounding the IAC were preventing preparation by commercial or professional organizations of essential guides to intelligence source materials such as open libraries find indispensable in their work. The Resources Section with a staff of five professional librarians is expected, when fully manned, to meet this need through a survey extending over a period of two to three years. During this time staff members will work systematically with and through the files of appropriate offices, archives and libraries in order to develop detailed and useful guides. It is intended that the researchers and the librarians will thereby acquire means for avoiding unintentional duplication of research effort and for making use of the research aids best suited to their needs.

The Reference Subcommittee of NSCID-16 Advisory Committee for Foreign Language Publications acknowledges the close relationship between this program and its own efforts to develop effective library controls of foreign intelligence information. It endorses the Resources program to its member Agencies and urges the full cooperation of all concerned in making specialized resources in the IAC accessible to intelligence research through authorized library channels. The Reference Subcommittee will be kept fully advised of progress made in achievement of this mission.

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